

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

ASSABET RIVER NWR

Visitor Center at 680 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA. For question about programs or to register contact Kizette at kizette_ortizvanger@fws.gov or 978-562-3527 x. 117

Refuge Fledgling Hour: Friday, September 28th at 10:30am Come learn about trees and leaves! We'll start by looking at/comparing leaves (that you bring from home). Then we'll talk about what happens to trees and leaves this time of year. Followed by an art project and story. If weather & time permit, we'll go on a scavenger hunt. Please wear appropriate clothing. Programs will be held the 4th Friday of every month 10:30am – 11:30am for **3 to 5 year olds**; siblings welcome.

National Public Lands Day: Saturday, September 29th at 9am Come volunteer to ensure the trails at Assabet River NWR are maintained and ready for the winter season! Bring a snack, water, sunscreen, bug repellent, work boots, gloves and if you have some tools. To be sure we enough tools on hand, please contact Kizette to **RSVP** by 3pm on Friday, September 28th.

Volunteers Needed! Visitor Survey Sampling Training: Saturday, September 29th at 11am Are you a people person and love being outside? We are trying to reach out to as many visitors that visit the refuge on 10/6-10/20 to implement a national USGS visitor survey. Volunteers will collect visitors' information during a 3-4 hour shift to find out what they do on the refuge. If you are interested in finding out more information or can't make the training but would like to help, please contact Kizette.



Deer and Forests, and the People Who Love Them: Thursday, October 11th at 7pm Thomas J. Rawinski, Botanist, USDA Forest Service, will explore the complex and fascinating relationships among deer, forests, and people, and discuss the paradigm shift needed if we are to manage deer herds to achieve balance in ecosystems and a reduction in deer-human conflicts. Over the past 25 years the deer population in eastern Massachusetts has grown substantially, and there is every indication that it will continue to grow, exacerbating ecological, economic, and human health and safety concerns. Why is this occurring? Join us on Oct 11th to find out more!

Bike Tour: Sunday, October 14th at 1pm Join refuge volunteers for a bike tour around the refuge to learn about the natural and anthropological history of the land. This program is available to families, please be aware of the approximate six mile distance we will be bicycling. Helmets required for ALL participants. Please contact Kizette to RSVP by 3pm on Saturday, October 14th. Limited to 20 participants.

Open House for Teachers and Students Thursday, October 18th 3pm – 5pm

Spooky Stories Walk: Thursday, October 18th at 6pm Go on a hike at dusk while finding out about some of the scarier stories that have happened at the refuge. Maynard Historian Paul Boothroyd will divulge into stories of ghosts, missing bodies and mysterious sounds. Please contact Kizette to **RSVP** by 3pm on Wednesday, October 19th. Limited to 20 participants.

Puffer Pond Archeological Survey Findings: Saturday, October 20th at 1pm Archeological surveys were conducted along the former Craven Lane at Puffer Pond now part of the Assabet River NWR. This site contains evidence of repeated occupation over an estimated 7,500 year span from the Middle Archaic to Late Woodland Periods. Duncan Ritchie, PAL Senior Archaeologist, will give a presentation on the findings which added to what is known about Native American settlement patterns, site formation processes, and lithic technology in the combined SuAsCo river drainage.

Kestrels and Cranberries: Wednesday, October 24th at 7pm American Kestrels are declining in numbers in Massachusetts. Did you know that kestrels prefer nesting around cranberry bogs? Hear from Joey Mason who has worked for 23 years to conserve these small falcons and other birds of prey in southeastern Massachusetts. She will explain their nesting preference; describe their diet and her experiences monitoring nest boxes. Joey will bring in a live male Merlin and two Kestrels for viewing up close. Her efforts locally to help birds of prey include retrofitting utility poles and producing a guide to better manage methane burners in landfills to reduce injury or death to raptors. Take a look at www.keepingcompanywithkestrels.org to learn more.

Refuge Fledgling Hour: Friday, October 26th at 10:30am Nature themed program series that will include crafts, stories, and games or songs that will relate to a different topic each month. Programs will be held the 4th Friday of every month 10:30am – 11:30am for **2 to 5 year olds**; siblings welcome.

(PLEASE TURN PAGE OVER FOR MORE PROGRAMMING INFORMATION)

Creepy Crawlers Encounter throughout the day on Sunday, October 28th 10am-4pm

Fall Historical Bus Tour: Sunday, October 28th at Noon Join Maynard Historian Paul Boothroyd for our popular bus tour of the historical sites of the Assabet River NWR. Visit sites dating back to Native Americans, Washington and the War of Independence, and World War II for many entertaining stories and anecdotes. Tickets at \$9.00 per person in advance only. Reserve your space early by calling Paul Boothroyd at (978) 835-4515. *Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Assabet River NWR.*

OXBOW NWR Entrance: Still River Depot Road parking lot (at end of Still River Depot Road in Harvard, MA) Programs sponsored by the Friends of the Oxbow NWR. For questions about programs, contact Rona Balco, President of Friends of Oxbow NWR, 978-779-2259 or Ada at gardenada@gmail.com

Walk in the woods: Sunday, October 7th at 2-4pm This time of year holds special surprises. The foliage will be glowing; the river will sparkle at our feet; some mushrooms might make an appearance. We will hike the most northerly part of the Esker Loop Trail. The esker is high enough for us to gaze directly into the tops of the trees which grow along the water, while pondering what adaptations animals make to cope with the winter to come. The Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge entrance in Shirley is on Walker Road. Follow the dirt road to a parking area. There will be a sign. For more information and to register, contact Rona; please include a telephone number so that we can contact you in case of cancellation of the program.

History along the Nashua River: Sunday, October 21st or 28th at 2pm Who lived along the stretch of the Nashua River from Shirley/Ayer to Rt. 2 during the not-so-distant past? Where are the ruins of the boat house? Was there once a Quaker Bridge? Weren't there mills as well? What is a basket factory? Our speaker, the director of the Fort Devens Museum, has a wealth of information and will delight you with all her stories on so many subjects. The meeting will take place in Lancaster at the Lancaster Community Center, 695 Main Street. For more information and the exact date, contact Rona.

GREAT MEADOWS NWR Concord Impoundments on Monsen Road, off Rte. 62 in Concord, MA

Autumn Nature Walks: A Sense of Place at Great Meadows NWR (Concord): Saturday, October 20th at 2-4pm, and Sunday, November 11th at 3:30-5:45pm As the landscape turns toward autumn, September brings a wave of new wildflowers and colorful fruits whose distinctive forms and saturated hues herald the end of a long summer. October marks a colorful transition in the marsh, surrounding forests, and along the river's edge that moves toward the earthen tones and silky-seeded appointments of November. Distinctive blossoms, last fruits, varied seed pods, the gossamer of autumn spiders, flocking birds, and mushroom surprises all will greet us in our ramblings through the refuge. For our final autumn walk, we'll enjoy the splendor of a November sunset and the silhouetted vestiges of summer life in the marsh. *No pre-registration required. A \$5/person voluntary donation will be gratefully accepted.* Led by Cherrie Corey, local naturalist and photographer; *Co-sponsored by Musketaquid Arts and Environment Program and FARNWR.* For questions, email cherrie.corey@verizon.net or call 978-760-1933 <http://sense-of-place-concord.blogspot.com/>

Exploring Concord's Historic Wildlands: An Environmental Learning Program for Homeschool Children (Concord): On Fridays, September 28th, October 26th, November 16th and December 14th Each 2.5-hour, monthly adventure will begin as a spontaneous foray that encourages children to respond to what each moment reveals as they move through the landscape. Cherrie will guide them toward a fuller understanding of what they experience and toward developing their own sense of place, no matter where they may be. They will have opportunities to explore, learn names and relationships; journal their observations; use hand lens, binoculars, and cameras to help focus their attention; and discover ways to be caring stewards of these wildlands. This program is open to children ages 9-14 and an accompanying parent (if interested, but not required). **Fee:** \$100/child for all four sessions; limited to 12 children (ages 9-13). *Please make checks or money orders payable to Cherrie A. Corey and send to her at 277 Old Bedford Road, Concord by September 24. If you have any questions, please email Cherrie at cherrie.corey@verizon.net or call at 978-369-4289 (leave a message in VM box #1).*

REMINDER: PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE REFUGES

Contact Us:

680 Hudson Road Sudbury, MA 01776 978-562-3527

Facebook: Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge and Twitter.com/assabetrivernwr

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/easternmanwrcomplex>

Friends of Assabet River: <http://www.farnwr.org/>

Friends of the Oxbow NWR: <http://www.friendsoftheoxbownwr.org/>

